

2014 Alternative Education Accountability (AEA) Accountability Development

Overview of 2013 AEA Provisions

Eligibility Criteria: In addition to the ten eligibility criteria under the former state accountability system, alternative education campuses of choice were required to primarily serve students in Grades 6-12. Each registered AEC also must have had at least 75% at-risk students enrolled on the AEC verified through current-year PEIMS fall enrollment data in order to be evaluated under AEA provisions.

Accountability Targets: The 2013 accountability targets for the AEA provisions were modified from those used for non-AEA campuses and districts.

Residential Facilities: Alternative education campuses and districts identified as Residential Facilities were not assigned rating labels in 2013. Performance index results were reported but no rating label was assigned.

Index 4: Postsecondary Readiness: In addition to modified index targets, further modifications to indicator definitions and index construction were applied to Index 4.

Grade 9-12 Graduation and GED Rate: The graduation rate calculation was modified to give AEA campuses and districts credit for GED recipients as well graduates. Four-year, five-year, and six-year modified graduation and GED rates were calculated for AECs.

Annual Dropout Rate: The annual dropout rate conversion was modified to give AEA campuses and districts points in Index 4 for annual dropout rates lower than 20.0. (For non-AEA campuses and districts the conversion gives credit for annual dropout rates lower than 10.0.)

Index Construction

- Bonus points were added to the final index score for the following indicators, to a maximum of 50 points.
 - Recommended High School Program/Distinguished Achievement (Advanced) High School Program (RHSP/DAP) rates (rather than averaging the rates into the Graduation and GED Score). For AEA campuses and districts that use the Annual Dropout Rate, an annual RHSP/DAP rate was calculated for bonus points.
 - Continuing Students Success Rates gave AEA campuses and districts bonus points for continuing students who graduate or receive a GED in their fifth or sixth year.
 - Excluded Students Credit gave AEA campuses and districts bonus points for serving recovered dropouts and other students who are statutorily excluded from the graduation rate and dropout rate calculations for those students who graduate or earn a GED.

2013 Index Score for AEA Provisions

The final Index 4 score was the sum of the highest four-year, five-year or six-year Graduation and GED Score combined with a maximum of 50 bonus points earned

from RHSP/DAP Annual Rate, Continuing Students Success Rate, and Excluded Students Count.

Requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1538

SB 1538, 83rd Texas Legislature (2013), defines a dropout recovery school as a district, charter school, or campus that serves students in grades 9-12 and has an enrollment of at least 50% of students, who are 17 years or older as of September 1 of the school year as reported on current-year fall PEIMS data, meets eligibility requirements, and is registered for evaluation under alternative education accountability (AEA) provisions.

This bill requires the use of the alternative longitudinal graduation rate (graduates, continuing students, and General Educational Development (GED) recipients) to determine the student achievement indicator for the dropout recovery school for state accountability ratings. The alternative completion rate is the ratio of total number of students who graduate, continue school in the next academic year, or receive a GED to the total number of students in the longitudinal cohort of students. The bill requires graduates and GED recipients who are excluded by TEC 39.053(g-1) to be included in dropout and completion rates used to evaluate dropout recovery schools. The bill also requires that only the best result from the primary administration and any retest results are included.

Modifications to 2014 AEA Provisions Required by SB 1538

The agency will implement the SB 1538 requirements by applying the 2014 AEA provisions to dropout recovery schools and alternative education campuses that meet the eligibility requirements and are registered to be evaluated under the AEA provisions. To meet the new statutory requirements, the following modifications will be made to the AEA provisions for 2014 and beyond.

Eligibility Criteria: Continue to apply the ten eligibility criteria that were used in 2013 and require that alternative education campuses of choice primarily serve students in Grades 6-12. Determine a timeline to increment the 75% at-risk enrollment criterion in future accountability cycles to meet the statutory intent of SB 1538.

Accountability Targets: The 2014 accountability targets for the AEA provisions will continue to be modified from those used for non-AEA campuses and districts based on the recommendations of the accountability advisory groups in spring 2014.

Assessment Processing: No changes are necessary to processing of the STAAR assessment results for accountability since the state accountability results are based on the best result from the primary and retest administrations.

Residential Facilities: SB 306 (83rd Texas Legislature, 2013) requires that the agency exclude the performance results of students whose placement in a residential treatment facility is not court-ordered. Therefore, residential treatment facilities will no longer receive a state accountability rating in 2014 and beyond.

Index 4: Postsecondary Readiness: In addition to modified index targets, further modifications to indicator definitions and index construction will continue to be applied to Index 4.

Grade 9-12 Graduation and GED Rate: The graduation rate calculation will be modified to give AEA campuses and districts credit for both continuing students and GED recipients as well graduates. Four-year, five-year, and six-year modified graduation, continuing students, and GED rates will be calculated for AECs.

Annual Dropout Rate: The annual dropout rate conversion will be modified to give AEA campuses and districts points in Index 4 for annual dropout rates lower than 20.0.

Index Construction

- Graduation, Continuing Students, and GED Score will contribute 75 percent of the points to Index 4 and STAAR Score (Percent of Students meeting Final Level II on One or More Tests) will contribute 25 percent of the points.
- Bonus points will be added to the final index score for the following indicators, to a maximum of 50 points.
 - Recommended High School Program/Distinguished Achievement (Advanced) High School Program (RHSP/DAP) rates (rather than averaging the rates into the Graduation and GED Score).
 - Excluded Students Credit will give AEA campuses and districts bonus points for serving recovered dropouts and other students who are statutorily excluded from the graduation rate and dropout rate calculations for those students who graduate or earn a GED.

Since SB 1538 requires inclusion of the continuing students in the longitudinal graduation rate results, additional bonus points for the Continuing Students Success Rates are no longer necessary.

2014 Index Score for AEA Provisions

The final Index 4 score will be based on the weighted combination of the STAAR results at the final Level II standard and the highest four-year, five-year or six-year Graduation, Continuing Students, and GED Score combined with a maximum of 50 bonus points earned from RHSP/DAP rates and Excluded Students Count.

Sec. 39.0545. EVALUATING DROPOUT RECOVERY SCHOOLS

AN ACT

relating to evaluating the performance, including computing dropout and completion rates, of public schools designated as dropout recovery schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.0545 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0545. EVALUATING DROPOUT RECOVERY SCHOOLS. (a) For purposes of evaluating performance under Section 39.053(c), the commissioner shall designate as a dropout recovery school a school district or an open-enrollment charter school or a campus of a district or of an open-enrollment charter school:

(1) that serves students in grades 9 through 12 and has an enrollment of which at least 50 percent of the students are 17 years of age or older as of September 1 of the school year as reported for the fall semester Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) submission; and

(2) that meets the eligibility requirements for and is registered under alternative education accountability procedures adopted by the commissioner.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 39.053(c)(2), the commissioner shall use the alternative completion rate under this subsection to determine the student achievement indicator under Section 39.053(c)(2) for a dropout recovery school. The alternative completion rate shall be the ratio of the total number of students who graduate, continue attending school into the next academic year, or receive a high school equivalency certificate to the total number of students in the longitudinal cohort of students.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 39.053(c)(2), in determining the performance rating under Section 39.054 of a dropout recovery school, the commissioner shall include any student described by Section 39.053(g-1) who graduates or receives a high school equivalency certificate.

(d) For a dropout recovery school, only the best result from the primary administration and any retake of an assessment instrument administered to a student in the school year evaluated under the accountability procedures adopted by the commissioner may be considered in determining the performance rating of the school under Section 39.054.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.